

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05  
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01  
PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /137 W  
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P R 120844Z SEP 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1031  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14015

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: JA KN PLOS EFIS  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JAPANESE DIET DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA

REF: A. TOKYO 9996; B. TOKYO 10738; C. TOKYO 11444

SUMMARY: DELEGATION OF PRO-DPRK DIET MEMBERS RETURNED FROM  
PYONGYANG LAST WEEK WITH PROVISIONAL PERMISSION FOR JAPANESE  
FISHING IN DPRK'S RECENTLY-SESTABLISHED ECONOMIC ZONE. HIGHLY  
RESTRICTIVE TERMS OF THIS PERMISSION, HOWEVER, COUPLED WITH  
RELATIVELY INFLEXIBLE AND BRUSQUE NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDE, CAME  
AS SHARP DISAPPOINTMENT TO JAPANESE. FONOFF'S INITIAL  
ASSESSMENT IS THAT RESULTS OF DIET VISIT WOULD UNDERCUT, RATHER  
THAN ACCELERATE, FURTHER JAPANESE MOVEMENT TOWARDS DPRK.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. BACKGROUND: SIXTEEN-MEMBER SUPRAPARTISAN DIET DELEGATION,  
LED BY CHUJI KUNO OF JAPAN-DPRK PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION, TRAVELED TO PYONGYANG AUGUST 26 FOR TEN  
DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS ON FISHERIES AND TRADE MATTERS. AS  
DESCRIBED BY KUNO TO PRESS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, PURPOSE  
WAS TO CONCLUDE NEW PRIVATE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT

(LONG A FAVORITY PROJECT OF KUNO'S) AND "TO COLLECT INFORMATION" ON DPRK'S RECENTLY-ESTABLISHED 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. JAPANESE MEDIA FOCUSED ON THIS LATTER ASPECT OF DELEGATION'S VISIT WITH EXPECTATION THAT JAPANESE DIETMEN WOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE PRIVATE AGREEMENT FOR JAPANESE FISHING ACCESS TO NORTHKOREAN ZONE. CONSEQUENTLY, LEVEL OF MEDIA INTEREST IN ACTIVITIES OF KUNO'S GROUP WAS HIGHER THAN NORMAL -- AS EVIDENCED BY SIZEABLE PRESS CONTINGENT WHICH ACCOMPANIED DIETMEN TO DPRK.

2. IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF, FONOFF OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT GOJ HAD SOUGHT TO USE DIET DELEGATION AS INDIRECT CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH TO SOUND OUT NORTH KOREANS ON DETILS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR NEW ECONOMIC ZONE AND NATURE OF GOJ GUARANTEES INSISTED UPON BY DPRK FOR FISHING ACCESS. IN WEEKS PRECEDING TRIP, SELECTED MEMBERS OF KUNO'S DELEGATION WERE BRIEFED BY FONOFF AND FISHERIES AGENCY OFFICIALS ON BOTH POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF FISHERIES QUESTION. JSP OFFICIAL, FOR INSTANCE, NOTED TO EMBOFF THAT JSP DIET PARTICIPANT HAD HAD SEVERAL EXCHANGES OF "IDEAS" WITH FONOFF NE ASIA DIVDIR ENDO ON POSSIBLE FORM FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH DPRK MIGHT TAKE. ADDITIONALLY, FORMER FISHERIES AGENCY DEPUTY DIRGEN TERUO SASAKI, WHO RETIRED ONLY IN AUGUST, ACCOMPANIED DELEGATION AS TECHNICAL ADVISOR. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. FONOFF NE ASIA DEPDIR KAWASHIMA EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT FONOFF HAD EXAMINED INFORMALLY VARIETY OF POSSIBLE METHODS OF FINESSING NORTH KOREAN ATTEMPTS TO EXTRACT JAPANESE POLITICAL RECOGNITION OF DPRK THROUGH FISHERIES QUESTION. ONE SUGGESTION OF WIDE CURRENCY HAD BEEN FOR GOJ SPOKESMEN IN DIET FORMALLY TO TAKE NOTE OF OR EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF ANY PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH DPRK AS POSSIBLE MEANS OF SATISFYING NORTH KOREAN DEMAND FOR GOJ "GUARANTEE." (ALTHOUGH THIS SUGGESTION WAS SUPPOSEDLY BASED ON PRECEDENT OF 1955 PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH PRC, FONOFF REVIEW OF RECORDS REVEALED THAT NO SUCH DIET STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE SINO-JAPANESE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN 1972.)

4. RESULTS: ON WHOLE, RESULTS OF DISCUSSIONS IN PYONGYANG WERE DISAPPOINTING TO DIET DELEGATION. ALTHOUGH GROUP DID RETURN WITH PROVISIONAL FISHING AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW JAPANESE ACCESS TO DPRK ECONOMIC ZONE FROM OCTOBER 1 TO NEXT JUNE, JAPANESE WERE UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY STIFF NORTH KOREAN RESTRICTIONS. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION

OF EARLIER NORTH KOREAN STATEMENTS, AGREEMENT WOULD BAR JAPANESE FISHERMEN FROM NORTH KOREAN 50-MILE MILITARY ZONE IN SEA OF JAPAN AND FROM ENTIRE NORTH KOREAN ECONOMIC ZONE IN YELLOW SEA -- AREAS IN WHICH MOST VALUABLE CATCH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY TAKEN.

5. FORMAL CONCLUSION OF NEW PRIVATE TRADE AGREEMENT WAS APPARENTLY DEFERRED. DESPITE SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS BY KUNO TO CONTRARY, NORTH KOREANS REPORTEDLY COULD OFFER NO SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF FAILURE BY OVER \$1 MILLION TO MEET INTEREST PAYMENTS UNDER EXISTING DEBT-DEFERRAL AGREEMENT.

6. ACCORDING TO KAWASHIMA, INITIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH  
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DELEGATION MEMBERS ON THEIR RETURN INDICATED THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD ADOPTED RELATIVELY BRUSQUE AND INFLEXIBLE POSTURE THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS. AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT NORTH KOREANS AND INSISTED UPON INCLUDING IN JOINT STATEMENT LANGUAGE WHICH CONDEMNED "UNFRIENDLY POLICIES" OF GOJ AND CALLED FOR COMPLETE US TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM ROK.

7. GOJ'S PUBLIC REACTION TO DIET VISIT HAS BEEN NEGATIVE. FONOFF SPOKESMAN CRITICIZED JOINT STATEMENT, WHICH APPEARED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH JAPAN-ROK MINISTERIALS IN TOKYO, AS "UNACCEPTABLE." FONMIN HATOYAMA STATED BEFORE DIET COMMITTEE THAT JAPANESE RELATIONS WITH DPRK COULD BE IMPROVED ONLY AS LONG AS RELATIONS WITH ROK WERE NOT DAMAGED IN PROCESS.

8. FONOFF NE ASIA DEPDIR KAWASHIMA OFFERED OPINION TO EMBOFF THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD MISPLAYED OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY DIET VISIT TO WIN GREATER JAPANESE POPULAR SUPPORT. HAD NORTH KOREANS BEEN RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING ON FISHERIES, HE FELT, GOJ WOULD BE UNDER GREATER PRESSURE TO PURSUE CONTACT WITH DPRK. KAWASHIMA NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS FROM DIET PARTICIPANTS, NORTH KOREANS APPARENTLY DID NOT ARTICULATE PRECISELY WHAT SORT OF GOJ POLITICAL GUARANTEE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR LONG-TERM PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT--"WE SUSPECT THEY DO NOT EVEN KNOW THEMSELVES." PROVISIONAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT CONSEQUENTLY PROVIDED GOJ WITH SEVERAL-MONTHS DELAY BEFORE NEED TO FACE THIS PROBLEM AGAIN.

9. KAWASHIMA CAUTIONED THAT FULL DETAILS OF DIET DISCUSSIONS IN PYONGYANG WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE TO FONOFF, BUT NOTED THAT MOST IMMEDIATE LESSON APPEARED TO BE UNRELIABILITY OF SUCH PRO-PYONGYANG POLITICIANS AS KUNO  
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AS INSTRUMENTS OF DIPLOMACY. NORTH KOREANS, HE FEARED,  
BASED THEIR POLICY TOWARD JAPAN IN LARGE PART ON  
MISINFORMATION AND COMPROMISING POSTURE OF SUCH  
INDIVIDUALS AS KUNO, THUS SERIOUSLY MISJUDGING BOTH  
OFFICIAL AND POPULAR OPINION IN JAPAN.  
MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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